

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION No.	:	10/542,731	CONFIRMATION No. 8426
APPLICATION OF	:	Hans Horn	
DATE FILED	:	July 20, 2005	
EXAMINER	:	Unassigned	
TC/A.U.	:	3722	
DOCKET	:	3827-135	
CUSTOMER No.	:	30448	
TITLE	:	Ring Binder Mechanism	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Pursuant to the Duty to Disclose under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the references cited on the accompanying form PTO/SB/08A are hereby brought to the attention of the Examiner for independent evaluation. In accordance with the Rules in effect for applications filed after June 30, 2003, copies of U.S. patents and/or patent application publications are not enclosed.

The International Search Report received in the corresponding PCT application is also enclosed and lists WO 01/81099 (English language equivalent U.S. 2002/02122687 submitted herewith) as an X reference, U.S. 3,993,374 as a Y reference, and U.S. 4,566,817, U.S. 4130,368 and EP 0808725 as A references. The English translation of the International Report on Patentability is also enclosed herewith and discusses WO 01/81099. The submission of the Search Report and the English translation of the International Report on Patentability, in addition to citing English language equivalent U.S. 2002/02122687, is believed to provide a brief description of the foreign language reference.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of form PTO/SB/08A be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the first office action on the merits in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(3); therefore, no fees are believed due; however,

the Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0951.

Respectfully submitted,
AKERMAN SENTERFITT

Date: May 21, 2006

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